

THE KALIDA VENTURE.

Equal Laws—Equal Rights, and Equal Burdens—The Constitution and its Currency.

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KALIDA, PUTNAM COUNTY, OHIO, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1845.

WHOLE NO. 241.

ment at the prospect of disappointment L. thus addressed his opponent:

"Sir, as there exists so great a disparity in our skill, as this affair has gone too far to be amicably adjusted, I propose that we decide it in a manner in which we both shall possess equal chances—by a throw of the dice. Whoever throws the highest number shall possess the other."

At this dreadful proposal many of the bystanders withdrew with horror, not choosing to be witnesses to such a scene. A few, however, whose curiosity overcame their scruples, remained; in the presence of whom the naval officer having accepted the terms they proceeded to throw. A death-like silence prevailed as the stranger took up the dice, and rattling them in the box, threw the number—*Eleven*.

L. now again addressed the stranger, and thus remarked:

"That Monsieur, is over the average throw, and you have probably won; before I throw, I take this opportunity to warn you, that you show no mercy to me, for (and here he uttered a dreadful oath) if I win, none shall be extended to you."

"Sir, I require none of your advice as to my conduct in this matter," was the brief reply of the stranger.

L. then took the dice! Without the alteration of a feature, and with a clear eye and steady hand he shook the fatal dice, and threw the number *Fifteen*.

A scarcely perceptible emotion passed over the countenance of the stranger, (for alas! he was a husband and a father!) but by a strong effort he suppressed it. "Now, then," said the heartless L. (taking up the pistol, the dreadful right of whose use he had won,) if you are of that class who use prayers, and wish to say any, you must be quick, for your time is short."

"I am always ready to die," was the brief response; and having so said, the stranger crossed his arms, folded them on his breast, and with compressed lips and unquailing eye, awaited the blow. L. then raised the fatal instrument and fired! His opponent's brains bespattered the wall! while mute and indescribable horror chained the spectators for several minutes to their positions, confounded at the unearthly scene they had witnessed.

After the bloody tragedy, the few who had hitherto associated with him, even the very rouses, gamblers and desperadoes, shunned him. He became tired of life and desperate; and when the British invaded the Island, L. joined their troops, and careless of life fought with a sort of infuriated bravery. The British soon, and particularly by his aid, became masters of the Island; and just as L. was in the very act of hoisting the British standard on the walls of the principal fort which had just been carried by storm, a ball pierced his brain, and he fell dead from the rampart.

The Nashville Union publishes a letter of Powell the sculptor, in answer to an application of Mr. Harris, of Tennessee, giving an estimate of the probable cost of a bronze equestrian statue of Gen. Jackson, sixteen to eighteen feet from the base to the head of the rider. He thinks that the casting alone would amount to between 12,000 and 15,000 dollars, and that 30,000 dollars in all would not be too much for the total expense of the work. At the close of his letter Mr. Powers says:

"I have not sent off my bust of Jackson. I must retouch the drapery of it. As soon as I am at liberty, it shall be done, and afterwards sent by the first vessel bound from Leghorn to the United States. * * Since I had the pleasure of talking with you, I have been offered more than the usual prices of similar works for my statues. I could have sold 'Eve' over and over again, but have determined on exhibiting this statue in my own country. I decided not to sell it on any terms to foreigners."

At that particular period, gambling prevailed to a most incredible extent throughout the W. India Islands; and not unfrequently a sum which, in those more pressing times, would be considered a small fortune, may be seen staked on the single throw of the dice. It was late one summer's evening, as the young militia Captain was engaged with some equally dissipated characters as himself, in this exciting speculation, in the saloon of a celebrated Cafe, when a stranger, wearing the uniform of a naval captain, entered, and having ordered some beverage to his taste, amused himself during its preparation in taking a throw of the dice, when regardless of knowing whether he had won or lost, he turned around to drink. Having finished his draught, and resumed his position at the table, he was surprised at seeing a large pile of gold pushed across to him by L. (the militia captain.) On being informed that he had won it on his throw, he refused to accept it, alleging that he did not consider himself entitled to it, as, at the time of throwing, he was not aware of the sum played for, supposing it to be some trivial amount, adding that "had he lost, he should not have paid it."

This sentiment seemed a welcome incident to L., who, seizing this opportunity for contradiction and probable quarrel, insisted that the stranger should accept it; at the same time, vehemently declaring that "had he (the stranger) lost, he should have paid it." To arguments, contradictions quickly succeeded, and finally an appeal to arms. In vain did the spectators of the scene endeavor to allay the angry feelings aroused, or effect a reconciliation; and hence, the "friends," who proceeded to select the weapons with which the right of quarrel should be decided, soon discovered that the stranger's skill was so far inferior to that of his antagonist, whether with pistol or small sword, that no doubt could exist, as to the issue of the encounter, were they to engage on equal terms. Under these circumstances L.'s high sense of "honor" forbade him to take advantage of his superiority. At length, after some reflection and evident embarrass-

THE FRENCH RESTRICTIVE SYSTEM.

Although a part of the French restrictive system has been directed against the importation of foreign corn, yet French agriculture does not appear to have derived any benefit whatever from such protection. It is inferior to that of most European countries, and has, in fact, scarcely improved at all since the time when Arthur Young described it, immediately before the first Revolution. Whilst the average produce of wheat per acre in England ranges from 20 to 40 bushels, or about 28 bushels for the kingdom, the average produce for the whole kingdom of France is under 14 bushels per acre.

"France, of all countries in Europe," says Mr. Macgregor, "should produce so cheaply as to have no pretence for restricting the importation of foreign corn. Notwithstanding this undoubted fact, a Committee of the Chamber of Deputies reported in 1832, that 'if we admitted the food and raiment and metals and colonial and other objects which strangers would bring to our ports, we might probably gain some hundreds of millions, should we be the richer in consequence?' for the riches of a state are in the elements of labour, and when labour fails to find employment, misery is reproduced. And it is not only a question of comfort, but one of existence; for if wheat were introduced without duty from the Baltic or Black Sea, our maritime shores would remain uncultivated, and the effect of a ruinous competition would affect more and more nearly the whole of our agricultural population." This is an extraordinary confession on the part of the representatives of a great people. They declare that France, with her soil so especially well adapted for the raising of corn; with her scientific and agricultural skill; with an industrious farming population; and with the expense of freight and other charges, equal at least to 20 per cent. of the value of corn, is incapable of competing with the Baltic and Black Sea corn-grower.

"The French agriculturist has, however, to contend against a real and most oppressive disadvantage; that is, the high price of iron required for making ploughs, harrows, and other agricultural instruments. By estimates, much under those made by the late Duc de la Rochefoucault and others, of the annual wear of the iron of ploughs and of harrows in France, and calculating the difference between the average prices, for ten years, of iron in that kingdom, and the prices at which, for the same period, English iron would have been sold and delivered in France, (if not restricted by high duties,) we find that by a very moderate calculation the agriculture of that kingdom is taxed forty millions of francs annually, to maintain the proprietors of iron mines and foundries, and the proprietors of woods used in making charcoal. M. Annison, an unprejudiced deputy, has estimated this tax, in his *Examen de l'Enquete sur les Fers*, at 49,522,000 francs, or nearly two millions sterling." (\$4,400,180.)

Here we find that for forcing the iron manufactures, which never have thriven in France, nor ever will thrive by such means, the national agriculture is subjected to an annual charge equal to two millions of pounds sterling; whilst that agriculture continues in a most backward and unsatisfactory state, though forced in its turn by taxes upon foreign corn. This is the very result foretold 70 years since by Turgot, in whose words will be found a remarkable opinion, dated 24th December, 1773, *Sur la Marque des Fers*, deprecating protective iron duties, by the most unanswerable arguments.—*Edinburgh Review*.

COMMENCING RIGHT.—After all that has been said by the whig Press about the "ragamuffins and land pirates" of Texas, we are prepared to look to the action of her convention for a model Constitution. Among the provisions already incorporated into that instrument are these:

"FIRST, That no corporate body shall be created, renewed or extended with banking or discounting power.

"SECOND, That the legislature shall be prohibited from contracting debts above \$100,000, except in case of war, or to repel invasion or insurrection."

The men who could adopt such a Constitution are men who deserve the thanks of age, and whose memories will be held in grateful remembrance by millions yet unborn. They have started at the right point—they have profited by the experience of the past, and instead of sharpening their wits in the attempts to curtail banking powers, and guard against bank explosions, they have nipped everything in the bud, and saved themselves from the grips of the money changer.

Has such been the policy of the older States, what untold myriads of wealth would have been saved to the toiling millions! what crimes prevented, what heaven-daring robberies of the poor man's pockets suppressed! Let the long and dismal array of widows and orphans reduced to want—let the beggars in rags, and the thieves in fine linen, the inmates of the prisons and hospitals, the registers of crime on earth, and in heaven answer! The evils of paper money are beyond all estimate, surpassing the loftiest stretch of imagination. Texas is right—let her go ahead!—*Goshen Democrat*.

The girls in this region are becoming so Democratic that they have discarded whale-bone, and now use Hickory for stays. Hurrah for the "vimmen!"—*Ind. Dem.*

From the Democratic Courier.

HORACE SCOTT KNAPP, Esq.—We have too long neglected to notice the nomination of this gentleman as a candidate for Representative in the district composed of the counties of Putnam, Defiance, Paulding, Williams, and Henry. The convention, in which Mr. Knapp, on the fourth balloting, received a large majority of all the votes cast, met at Charloe, Paulding county, on the 27th ult. In copying the preamble and some of the resolutions of the convention, which will be found below, it may not be improper in this connection, to offer a few remarks in regard to its nominee. With Mr. Knapp we have been long and intimately acquainted. Some years since we wrought side by side as journeymen in the same printing office. Being so intimately associated with him, we profess to know something about his feelings, habits, and modes of thought, and unless he has wonderfully changed from days of yore, we cannot err in saying that a more lofty minded, honorable and upright man lives not in the world. We speak in this high strain of eulogy from the confidence we still repose in him. We believe that his sentiments now are what they have ever been. He heartily detests every species of tyranny over the minds and bodies of men. To corporations of all descriptions, from a monster bank down to a little village squabbling lyceum, he is an uncompromising opponent. Mr. Knapp is no theorizer. He wishes to bring the doctrine of "equal and exact justice to all men"—a notion affording a theme for much day-dreaming speculation—into actual fruition. The motto of the Democratic Courier—"the greatest good to the greatest number"—is with him no idle and dark saying. Its import governs his actions. We have had in our ranks too many milk-sop politicians—too many weathercock demagogues, professing one thing and practising another—fellows, who, when standing forth for the suffrages of the people, have prated of their rights and their wrongs, and when duly installed into responsible stations, have set up the cry of "expediency" as an excuse for the betrayal of the trusts reposed in them. Out on the folly of "expediency," and out on men of the Judas-like character of Senator Lahm from Stark, who, although coming from a strongly democratic district, grossly betrayed his constituents by voting with the federal Shylocks of the Ohio Legislature, upon every banking question brought upon the tapis. We say, we want no such political jugglers in our party. We want such men as are willing to show their hands—men who will at once declare their position, let it be either for or against us. Concealment should never for a moment be the policy of the true democracy. The *Old Hunkers*, in concert with the federalists, have well nigh ruined the State. To them, as well as to our opponents, are we indebted for the various systems of fraudulent banking which have cursed Ohio, from the palmy days of the Owl Creek concern, to the present legalized plunder scheme of Alfred Kelley's band of thieves. The *Young Democracy* desire a different state of things. They, in the progressive spirit of the age—from the more enlarged and liberal views of the rights of the whole people—and in contradistinction to Old Hunkerism and the oligarchical principles of federalism, contend for a radical and permanent change in our monetary affairs, and an utter demolition of all the rag shops in the country. They are opposed to the unconstitutional emission of bills of credit. Gold and silver is the only standard of value, and why not have the substance for the shadow, the reality for the thing represented, say they. These, we think, are the views of a large majority of the people of North Western Ohio, and Mr. Knapp, whilst editor of the *Kalida Venture*, has consistently maintained them. We rejoice in his nomination, and have no doubt of his election; and that when elected, he will manfully pursue the same course in our legislative councils, which he has heretofore so ably advocated in the columns of his excellent paper.

If Mr. Hazewell is a radical Democrat, and entirely unincumbered with the odious doctrine of conservatism, he might give a more clear and explicit expose of his true sentiments than has yet been placed before the public ere this, and he owes it to the democratic press of Ohio, and her noble democracy, to do it without further delay. He particularly owes it to the old friends of Col. Medary to define his position, more clearly, upon the currency question, that they may know whether he is for or against the principles for which they have been contending. A frank, candid and unequivocal statement upon this all-absorbing question, would, no doubt, go far toward satisfying the minds of many honest democrats, who have been disposed to question the orthodox principles of the paper, since it came under Mr. Hazewell's control.—*Piketonian*.

DEBATE ON SLAVERY.—The Rev. N. L. Rice and the Rev. J. B. Blanchard will debate the following question in Cincinnati, the discussion to commence the first of next month: "Is slaveholding in itself sinful, and the relation between master and slave, a sinful relation." Toast drank at Erie, Pa., last 4th of July: *Our noble selves.*—As smiling as nature around us, but not so green."

NAVAL ANECDOTES.—The following pleasant anecdote of the heroic Decatur is from a late number of the "Nautical Magazine," and it will, we are sure, be read with interest by every American:

"Before the war, Captain Carden and the Macedonian were at Norfolk; Decatur was there, too, and a warm intimacy soon joined in friendship two kindred hearts. While discussing naval affairs one day, Carden said 'Decatur, your ships are good enough, and you are a clever set of fellows; but what practice have you had in war? there's the rub. One of these days we will probably have a brush together, and if I catch your ship at sea, I will knock her into a cocked hat, Stephen.' 'Will you,' says Decatur; 'I will bet you a hat on it.' The bet was agreed on and the conversation changed.

"But a few months elapsed ere the war that had been threatening commenced, and the two captains, by some singular coincidence, met. The results of the action are known. Captain Carden, on going on board the United States, was received by a lieutenant at the gangway, to whom he tendered his sword. 'Not to me, sir,' said the officer, 'but to the captain.' 'And where is the captain?' said the embarrassed Englishman. 'He is standing aft there; that is the gentleman, sir, in a tarpaulin hat and round jacket.' 'Carden went aft, and his feelings, on meeting, under such circumstances, his old friend, may be imagined. As he offered his sword to Decatur, that officer said, 'No, Carden; I never take the sword of a brave man; you have fought gallantly. But,' said he, laying his hand on the other's shoulder, 'I will take that hat, my dear fellow.'"

"In transferring to the United States the suite of Captain Carden, a fine band was included. In the afternoon, when dinner was announced in the cabin, Captain Carden said to Decatur, 'those musicians are very shifty, and I have always had them on deck while at my dinner.' 'Very well,' said Decatur, 'we will have them up.' The band was ordered on deck to play, and Com. Decatur was asked what air he would like to hear. 'Let them play Britannia rules the waves,' said he, with a sly laugh."

On examination, it was found that of the two hundred and three convicts in the Auburn State prison, all but one were accustomed to use strong drink!

MOVEMENTS OF THE BRITISH IN CANADA.

Some weeks ago, an article appeared in this paper, under this head, which did not sit well on the stomachs of the official journals of Canada, but the material facts they did not deny. They undertook, however, to ridicule the whole matter, by a technical objection to the expression "Highland Dragoons," and their echoes this side of the line joined in the cry.

Upon making further inquiries, we learn that the expression "Highland Dragoons" referred rather to the fact that the soldiers had been recently imported from a station in the Highlands of Scotland, than to the fact that they were Highlanders born, or were Highlanders in stature. But it is immaterial where they were born, where they came from, or whether they were mounted or on foot. All we Americans want to know is, that some kind of troops are there. The question then arises, what are they there for? As to the statement that Great Britain is trying to get our Indians away, it is confirmed by the Indians themselves now at Mackinac awaiting for the payment. Not only so; but persons, who have been at Drummond's island this season, and are acquainted there, say that the diminution of the Indians is easily perceptible. Again: the Canada papers themselves boast of the great increase of the Indians to the Manitouline from Drummond's island. They may equally loudly boast of the great accession of negroes, which are kidnapped and run over the lines by our abolitionists. The British, the Indians, and the negroes, compose the modern triple alliance against the extension of freedom on the American continent.

The name of the steamship lying in ordinary at Penetanguishine is "The Mines." If it has been off this season, it has not been known on the American side. There is another very small steamship, to which our other article did not allude. When the American steamship Michigan was in the Sault Ste. Marie region, this summer, this little concern, whose name we have lost, followed along in her wake, to see what she was about; but was not seen by the Michigan, as one of her crew informed us. She has been in the St. Mary's river several times, and was seen by the crew and passengers of the Gen. Scott—a steamboat plying between Mackinac and the Sault—on her trip about the 25th of August. She has no business of any kind whatever, either in the shape of carrying freight or passengers. Again: the British are about commencing a fort at Port Sarnia, the terminus of the contemplated western railroad from Kingston, at the foot of Lake Huron, nearly opposite to the American Fort Gratiot.

All these matters are of the highest interest to us.—*Chicago Democrat*.

Tom Jones, gives his note to John Thomson, on which he has written a promise to pay \$100 on demand. But this paper note will not pass for money, and yet it has the security of Jones's farm and labor for its redemption. Why should the laws make a banker's promise money to twice the amount that it is pretended the bank has means to redeem?